

THE WHEAT HARVEST OF 1893. CENTRAL DIVISION. BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE.

THE POSITION.

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discussion the third clause was arrived at of compromise. Instead of conceding right on improvements, Parliament conceded of tenure for a term to be decided by the Lands and Land Court, as proportionate to the such improvements as lessees would effect to the advantage to the land. There is nothing in this third clause as to extension, but the extension is defined in so far only as it must over five years.

edies follow suit. Pastoral leases are scarce, and the House of Assembly, and the people long been accustomed to allow themselves to be on one side and jostled there and there, rather, that it is now taken for granted they go up with any injustice. Under the fact, central leases are distinctly entitled to be of the whole of their leasehold areas for as the land board, subject to confirmation of the Land Court, considers the improvements, and warrant. They can scarcely be offered for two years in any instance, and, five years at limit, it follows that the average will be a half-year. They are equally and

entitled to them, and they certainly should not be required to forego their right to the extension of the lease area, except by a proportion of the area for one-half, namely, seven years for every year of the lease, but he attaches to the offer conditions as to the extension and so costly as to be impossible to fail to accept. The offer is left to lessees. He proposes that lessees should have open half of existing lease at once, the other half in two years' lease of one half, and no more. If no extension is offered, he only offers that the lessees are already entitled. But there is no offer to follow. The 30th section provides that

shall destroy all rabbits and noxious
within a term of three years, and shall
and free from the same. This is a large
two-thirds of the Central division has now
in it, half of that is heavily infested and
rubbish. To check the further advance of
to prevent the further increase in high-
country, and to accomplish the destruction
in heavily infested country, thousands of
netting fence will have to be erected
the preliminary expense will involve a
of at least half a million sterling
white within three years.

It is not possible for financial institutions to advance this immense sum of money on the basis of the rabbits' wool and skins. It is not possible for financial institutions to lease if Mr. Copeland's Amendment were law. Large tracts of Crown lands must be abandoned, and the impending financial

ch may be averted by wise and decided action, but will be precipitated. Individuals will be financially ruined, financial institutions shaken, and Englishmen withdrawn. Production will be lessened, and seriously affect the whole colony. Workmen, mechanics, shearer, and labourers will also be thereby swelling the ranks of the unemployed. Merchants and storekeepers and the whole colony must, and will, suffer. At the present time there are large tracts of abandoned Crown land in the Central division. When the grass on the Murrumbidgee scrub becomes full of rats, the rabbits are now on it—3,000,000 acres of the Central division. Sixteen. This means

ture is not in the least too highly coloured. The State, it is wanted? It must be admitted that Mr. Copeland has made an honest effort to grapple with the difficult position. Mr. Copeland is on the whole, in throwing the responsibility and cost of the work with the rabbits on the occupiers of the land and by means of local boards. If, however, omitted to put these occupiers on to raise the necessary funds. True, his pastoral leases eventually got out of the State, but Mr. Copeland offers extensive compensation for tenant right in improvements. He offers pastoral leases eventually got out of the State, but Mr. Copeland offers extensive compensation for tenant right in improvements. He offers

trials leases on the same terms to all leaseholders. The least consideration as to whether such a change is heavily infested, lightly infested, or not infested at all with rabbits, without considering whether the land is close to populous centres, markets, cultural land, or scrubby country with a rainfall adjoining the Western division. The alteration in the amending bill will put in a position to deal with the rabbits. Let us assume that "all leasees who net the whole of their leased areas within 12 months, or a shorter period as the land board may approve, and who are free from rabbits to the satisfaction of the local authority."

years of from one-half to three-fourths of the household areas from expiry of same in 1930, and to proximity to populous centres, and that the land should be divided into small plots, and be sown in rabbit-infested West Bogan country, and in the heavily infested scrubby country to the north-west division. Tenant right in improvement of the land by destruction of rabbits by the occupiers under the system of stock boards, are provided for, but these are abandoned to compel the State to destroy rabbits in the abandoned country, and the Pastures must be remodelled to meet this. This is the gist of the proposal, and one that should attract the attention of the Government.

It granted it would without doubt. The Central and Eastern divisions from devastating rabbits, avert a serious financial crisis, a colony from great loss. Western pastures and homestead leases and a number of leases should be offered extension of terms. Netting and rabbit destruction should be urged in every possible way. The Government must do the work, but the money must be put in a position to do it. There are many admirable amendments and provisions in Mr. Copeland's amending bill. In fact a large part of the bill is good. It is only the exception the settlements area measure, which is not good.

There the bill is very weak and unsatisfactory. It is a pity that the Minister did not negotiate with these important matters more thoroughly, and cannot help them in their distress. The Minister's information that during the last year (eight of those years being under 1880) there were no less than 21,000,000 acres of selective land was transferred shows plainly what was done under the name of settling the people on the land. A wholesale throwing open of the

It is not asked you for space to go into what is the most important in this matter, namely

of the land. To endeavour to apply the rule of procedure to a division bordering one extremity with Queensland and another with Victoria is manifestly absurd. Vigorous, and decided policy is needed. If vacillating policy obtains, and matters are allowed to drift, they must drift the colony into difficulty, from which it will take many years to emerge. It is hoped that legislators will be unbiased and party feeling to one side, and that with may be in office the land question will arise from a broad and national point of view. I am, &c.,

C. FETHERSTONHAUGH.

TAXATION OF LAND.

THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

view of a hopeful belief that the federal Government of Australia will be an accomplished fact in the not distant future, I fail to understand why the Government, professing a strong desire to hasten the process of civilisation, should object to bring forward a bill for taxing unimproved land values on the basis that such a tax is required for the purpose of raising the revenue necessary to defray the cost of the Government—clinging to a form of taxation

a federal parliament is constituted it will claim Customs and excise wherewith the national government, as also the right a income tax should the exigencies of the require it. If so, what source of revenue is adapted to meet the necessities of the various legislatures than a tax on unimproved freeholds? For the purposes of local rates of counties, shires, or districts, as the denominations, which are only subaltern on an extended scale, other means of obtaining

ing to federation I am tempted to admit the utility of Sir Henry Parkes's abstract, condemning a nominee and landing an elected member in the House was, considering his federalistic attitude and other reasons, questionable, even if the House was not to be a mere debating chamber. With the national affairs in the hands of the parliament and executive, the transaction of domestic business of this and other provinces will be comparatively a small matter, hardly worth the retort of two provincial chambers. It is fortunate that Victoria, if less enabled than New South Wales, has not yet been so unfortunate as to squander millions on

at Parliament House; something more than our original conception will suffice here at the heels of the Provincial State Honours conferred to the vice-regal site, will be unusual in Australia.

I am, &c.,
H. W. THOMSON.
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Barrack-street, February 5.

MRS BARTON POWDER obtained the only first-class highest degree of merit. Wagon's Saluting Powder.—(AUST.)

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even country beyond Ipswich on the Tootenoid side and from the slopes of the main range, the terrified railway communication between Ipswich and the Southern colonies, whilst the boats on the waters from Brisbane over the locks between Ipswich and Brisbane, has cut Ipswich from the metropolis, judging from the figures to hand it is probable that fully one-third of the town is submerged. There are several colonies in the vicinity, and in addition to the serious and dreadful fatality was recorded, most of the country will have been flooded.

COUNTRY NEWS.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.)

VISIT OF THE GOVERNOR TO NOON

At a meeting of the Nowra Council this morning a letter was read from Mr. Morton, M.L.A., stating that the Governor will visit Nowra this week. The Mayor said that more notice should be given of his Excellency's visit had he been given, also that an engagement outside the town would prevent him from being in the town to meet his Excellency. Moreover the municipal picnic on Friday made the circumstances of the visit very unfortunate. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the Mayor should receive the Governor on behalf of the council.

LAND RETURNS.

MOSS VALLEY, M.

From the return of work performed in the Moss Vale, it is shown that the following was transacted during 1892:—For condition of sales there were 56 applications, the deposit was received on 10, and the balance on 10.

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intended to lay up the dredge Valcano along the coast, 20 hands from the other dredges, and to send to the other parts of the harbor the dredge Valcano, which is now in the harbor. Although a little money might be saved in this way, yet by not keeping the dredges fully employed, the money would be lost. A bill will accumulate so rapidly that it will be more to remove it eventually, besides in affecting the export trade by partially blocking the harbour. The attention of the city members and the members of Commerce drawn to this matter.

THE CLIPPING COLLIERIES.

REDUCTION IN THE HEAVING RATE.

CLIPPING, Mo.

Notice of a reduction in the heaving price was posted at the Metropolitan Company's office Saturday last. The proposed reduction was from \$1.00 to \$0.90 per ton. The reduction was made in the heaving price of the company's own coal, and not in the price of the coal of other companies. The reduction was made in the heaving price of the company's own coal, and not in the price of the coal of other companies. The reduction was made in the heaving price of the company's own coal, and not in the price of the coal of other companies.

Competition is so keen that it is expected that the miners will be driven to the surface by the coal barons before long. It is understood that the miners will not accept the company's offer of Metropolitan mine. A compromise, however, is expected, and a strike may thus be averted.

THE TOBACCO EXPORTS.

PROPOSED VISIT TO THE CLARENDON MOUNTAINS.

—MACLEAN.

The secretary of the local Agricultural Association has been informed by the Department of Agriculture that the two newly-appointed tobacco inspectors, Messrs. Lamb and Sutherland, will be visiting the Clarendon mountains in the near future.

THE PRIMATE AT ADAMINA.
ADAMINA, Monday.
The Primate arrived on Saturday from Lagos, and is the guest of Mr. S. Macky, J.P. He is a very cordial welcome, and he presided at a dinner given in his honor at the hotel. The dining was crowded. On Tuesday morning the Primate starts with a party for the Yarragoula Cattle

RIFLE SHOOTING AT BATHURST
A rifle match was fired on Saturday between the Bathurst and the Volunteers, (late Reserves) and the combined forces of the Citizens, 495; Volunteers, 424; the highest score for the respective teams being W. S. Hodge, Private, Bathurst, 470, and J. J. McLeod, Private, Bathurst, 460. The combined forces of the Citizens and Volunteers, 919, won the match.

BATHURST QUARTER SESSIONS

BATHURST, Mo.

At the Quarter Sessions to-day, before Judge Dwyer, the first four prisoners were called on. O'Mara, a young woman, charged guilty to assault and carrying a dangerous weapon, was fined \$5 and attorney's charges for \$5. The second was Mary Hodson, a young-looking girl charged with carrying a dangerous weapon, was fined \$5. The third was Elizabeth Brown, a woman, was charged with wounding her husband, and was convicted of maliciously wounding. She showed that there had been a quarrel, during which the accused hit him on the head with a stick, and was convicted of maliciously wounding.

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brown mask yesterday evening. Dr. J. H. Hood successfully combed fatal results were the result of the attack. The patient was in a dangerously comatose state and she was brought to him.

RATHBUN was injured on the railway that Swan, who is just recovering from the effects of the attack, is in a very low state, but may recover. A statement as to his death was made by a employee of Swan's.

BERRY, Mrs. Lord Jersey has signified his consent to the travelling by the special train conveying his body home on Wednesday. The train leaves at 5 a.m.

BROKEN HILL, Monday. The fourth annual conference of the Colonial Society of Australia opened here this morning. The president of the society, Mr. J. H. Berry, was in the chair. A very successful session is being held.

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